

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 910

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the 2011 Henry County High School football team for winning the TSSAA Class 5A BlueCross Bowl championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those student athletes who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as true sportsmen of whom all can be proud; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2011 Henry County High School (HCHS) football team have proven themselves to be the ablest of competitors and, as such, deserving of the highest regard; and

WHEREAS, the HCHS Patriots have counted among their members some of the most talented young athletes Tennessee has produced; and

WHEREAS, under the astute leadership of head coach James Counce, who was recently named the 2011 Titans High School Football Coach of the Year, the team propelled itself to an undefeated 15-0 record in the 2011 season and postseason; and

WHEREAS, with the pressure of many close calls in past years but no trips to the state finals, Coach Counce and the 2011 team broke through that roadblock when they knocked off Hendersonville High School on November 25 to gain a spot in the coveted TSSAA Class 5A BlueCross Bowl for the first time in the school's forty-two-year history; and

WHEREAS, the HCHS Patriots faced the Powell Panthers (14-1) in the state championship game, held on December 2, 2011, at Tucker Stadium at Tennessee Technological University. The game was tied 14-14 at the half and both teams were scoreless in the second half until late in the fourth quarter; and

WHEREAS, the Patriots secured a game-winning thirty-two-yard field goal by Kyler Ainley in the final two minutes of the game, giving HCHS a 17-14 lead, and they clinched the

victory in the final thirty seconds of the game when HCHS recovered a Powell fumble caused by Patriots defensive end Randall Dunlap, who was also named the game's Defensive Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, Henry County's running game was a strength of their game, with senior quarterback Najee Ray rushing for 154 yards and running back Shaquille Allen scoring both touchdowns and tallying 142 total rushing yards; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2011 team are Areyon Autman, Storme Hilliard, Trey Cowan, Chosen Tharpe, Evian Cook, Dre'Mel Kendall, Najee Ray, Corvez Nored, Jamari Curtis, Caleb Counce, LaQuan McFerren, Matt Craig, Shontel Thompson, Dennis Tharpe, Jr., Felix Adams, Garrett Minor, Colton Randolph, Richard Wiltrout, Kyler Ainley, Gary Dobbins, Cameron Riordan, John Tyler Gallimore, Jacob Scarbrough, Malcolm Benau, Brandon Donaldson, Sam McCadams, Gage Davis, Nathaniel Godbott, Jaritt Beasley, Ben Jelks, James Brooks, Reggie Tharpe, Chase Henderson, Shaquille Allen, Drew Dodd, Jordan Mitchell, Kyle McKee, Brandon Long, Cole Madden, Jesse Hudgins, Ashton Cate, Blake Robbins, Chance LeCroy, Pierce Atkins, Michael Etheridge, Andy Ford, Tyee Hart, Brad Owens, Blake Goodgine, Andrew Jelks, Jamario White, and Sam Duckworth; and

WHEREAS, the team also includes Jonathan White, Rob Sleadd, Jordan Hefner, Griffin Wood, Mason Peale, Jeffrey Marshall, Dillon Madden, Dylan Doyle, Scottie Alexander, Jordan Wade, Jacob Pierce, Joe Dennie, Harrison Foster, Flynn Watson, Ben Bomar, Braden Roney, T.J. Johnson, Jay Gore, Ryan Meredith, Rock Long, Obie Copeland, Martrel Kendall, Jimmy Camper, Justin Mitchell, Kyle Green, Randall Dunlap, Kellen Robbins, Eric Milliken, Blake Garner, Vince Vine, Michael Ellison, Anderson Taylor, Victor Atkins, Justin Ramos, Blake Frey, Ethan Berry, Drake Walker, Eric Nohr, Dustyn Syjud, Nate Kendall, Preston Neal, Ryan O'Daniel, Spencer Ward, William Whitaker, James Moore, Donavan Owens, and Bryan Rammel; and

WHEREAS, the team's managers are Zach French, Darius Ellison, and Alex Joyner; and

WHEREAS, the assistant coaches are Chuck Adams, James Counce, Jr., Cliff Curd, John Harrison, John Hudson, Michael Norman, Paul Putnam, Bert Snow, Steve Summers, and Reggie Thompson; and

WHEREAS, others who helped make this championship season possible include Heather Gladwell, Team Physician; Michael Poteete, Athletic Director; Lennies McFerren, Principal; and Sam Miles, Director of Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Henry County Patriots football team has displayed the tenacity, camaraderie, and skill befitting one of the State's finest athletic teams; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the 2011 Henry County High School football team, not only for the team's championship win but for the players' superior sportsmanship and the joy they have brought to their fellow students and the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the members of the 2011 Henry County High School football team and head coach James Counce for their heralded success on the gridiron and extend to them our best wishes for future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.